

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q1 2014 DIRT Analysis Jan - March 2014

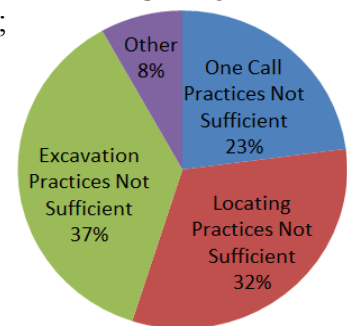
Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the submitted events occurring during the first quarter of 2014 (Jan. - March). To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. Any damages occurring during that time which were submitted after the 45 day period will not be included in the analysis report.

Trends

As anticipated, the first quarter of 2014 brings lower numbers than the last quarter; most likely due to the winter conditions naturally slowing excavation activities. A total of **506** damage events were submitted, with very few duplicate reports. Again, we're concerned that excavators are not reporting incidents, and will be focusing on educational opportunities to create more awareness. **Insufficient excavation practices** continues to hold the lead in damages by root cause this quarter at 37 percent of total damages, with 68 incidents of **failure to use hand tools**, closely followed by 57 incidents involving **failure to maintain marks**. The second highest damage by root cause this quarter was **locating practices not sufficient** at 32 percent, which is up 10 percent from the previous quarter. This is particularly concerning due to the subcategories identifying 79 incidents of **facility marking or location not sufficient** and 67 incidents of **facility was not located or marked**. On a positive note, **no notification made to one-call center** was down 5 percent from the previous quarter. We are also pleased to see an additional **47** damage events reported this quarter over the first quarter of 2013, where **459** damage events were reported. It is also noted that reports appear to be more thoughtfully submitted, with a reduction of filings in the **miscellaneous or other** category from 19 percent in the first quarter of 2013 to eight percent this quarter.

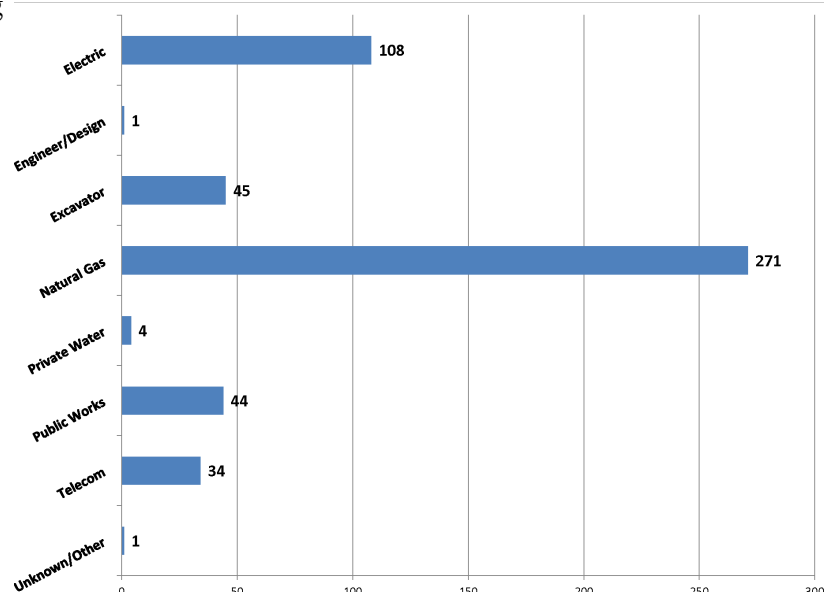
Damages by Root



Reporting Issues

We did see a slight improvement in reporting from the excavating community this quarter, however, the lion's share of reports are still coming from facility operators. We want to encourage facility operators to provide any excavator who damages their facilities with information about damage reporting. This will help educate those excavators who aren't aware of the requirements under the new law. With **natural gas** companies providing **54 percent** of the damage event data, the commission again wants to remind the other utilities and contractors/excavators about their responsibility to report damage events within the 45 day requirement set forth in **RCW 19.122.053**.

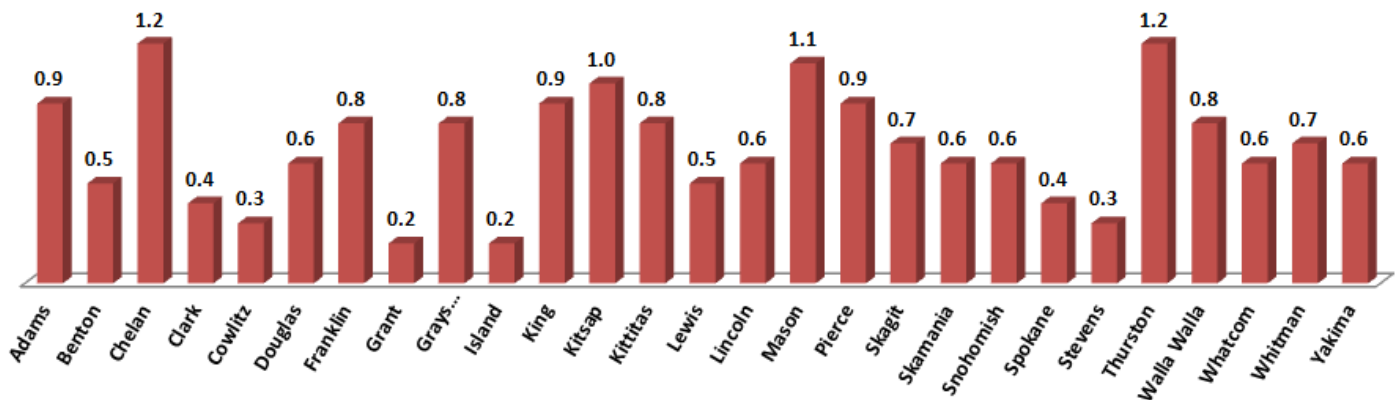
Reporting Stakeholders



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 100 locate requests. By identifying the number of damage events without including locate request information, larger counties are shown with much higher numbers while the smaller counties show very low numbers. We believe identifying events, using locate request information, normalizes damage statistics and shows a clearer picture of how each county rates in comparison to other counties throughout the state.

Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests



Education

The commission will have an opportunity to help educate contractors about damage prevention and reporting requirements at several free contractor trainings offered by the Department of Labor and Industries throughout the year. If you are interested in attending one of these training sessions, you may contact [Rebecca Llewellyn](#) at the Department of Labor & Industries. Her telephone number is (360) 902-6366.

We will also be working on outreach efforts throughout the state with the excavation community and facility operators. Our focus will be on providing information to companies, that are either not reporting or under reporting, about the new dig law and the importance of damage reporting. You can help in this effort by providing the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements outlined in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about the law or damage reporting.

If you have questions regarding this report or damage reporting in general, contact [Lynda Holloway](#).